

and released the 1st instalment of Rs. 901.329 lakh. With this, remaining 7 projects of the prioritized lists have since been lapsed as per the sanctioning procedure and may not be considered as pending with the Ministry. However, in case, the State Government requires to implement them, it may re-include them in the prioritized lists of the projects for approval by the PSC during the next year.

High arsenic content in potable water

†2392. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that high arsenic content is found in potable water in various States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that people are suffering from various kinds of diseases as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government are formulating any plan with a view to address the problem of arsenic content in the potable water; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that high levels of arsenic content is found in drinking water sources in the rural areas of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Tripura and Jharkhand, as reported by the concerned State Government, as per Water quality survey ordered in March, 2000 and information compiled and updated as on 1/4/2006.

(b) and (c) Consumption of drinking water containing excess arsenic over a prolonged period of time, may lead to diseases like Arsenicosis, Keratosis.

(d) and (e) For tackling water quality problems due to chemical contamination, which include tackling excess arsenic problems, a Sub-Mission programme was introduced in 1992-93 under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) with funding pattern of 75:25 between the Centre and States. With effect from 1/4/1998, the State Governments

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

were delegated powers to sanction projects under the Sub-Mission Programme for which funds earmarked for water quality were to be utilized. 15% of ARWSP funds released to States were earmarked for tackling water quality problems, and 5% for taking up source sustainability measures like rainwater harvesting and water recharging. These measures, *inter-alia*, reduce contamination of ground water based drinking water sources. Fully covered States could utilize more funds for tackling water quality problems with the approval of Government of India. Tackling all water quality problems in a time-bound manner during 2005 to 2009 is one of the sub-component of Bharat Nirman for safe drinking water supply. With effect from 1/4/2006, under the Revised Sub-Mission programme under ARWSP it has been decided to retain upto 20% of ARWSP funds at the Centre and release these funds only to State Governments having water quality problems. Priority has been accorded for tackling excess arsenic problems, as per this Programme.

Lack of sanitation in rural areas

†2393. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the average number of children and mothers dying each year in the country, for absence of facilities of safe drinking water, sanitation and toilets;

(b) the efforts being made by Government to check spread of diseases due to contaminated water and lack of facilities of toilets and sanitation;

(c) the works carried out by Government under potable water and rural toilets construction scheme and the success achieved thereunder State-wise/district-wise; and

(d) the proposed budget for the year 2006-07 and the amount spent on implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) Health is primarily a State subject and provision of medical relief for water borne diseases through primary and community health centres is looked after by the State Governments. The preventive measures taken by the local

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